

# THE ALCHEMY OF PEACE



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**[www.cpgg.org](http://www.cpgg.org)**



# TWO INITIAL OBSERVATIONS

► Our World is Beset By Crises

- Number
- Frequency
- Intensity

AND

► Our Systems Are Failing



# OUR OLD BEHAVIORS ARE NO LONGER SERVING US .... TIME TO SWEEP THEM AWAY

- BUT.... wait a minute....
  - With what do we replace them?
  - How can we do this quickly and effectively?
  - How do we convince people to adopt these new behaviors?



# MINDSETS TRIGGER A CHAIN REACTION

- Change the story
  - Change the Emotions
    - Change the Behavior
      - Change the Habits
        - Change the Culture
          - CREATE A NEW REALITY

# WHAT IS A MINDSET AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

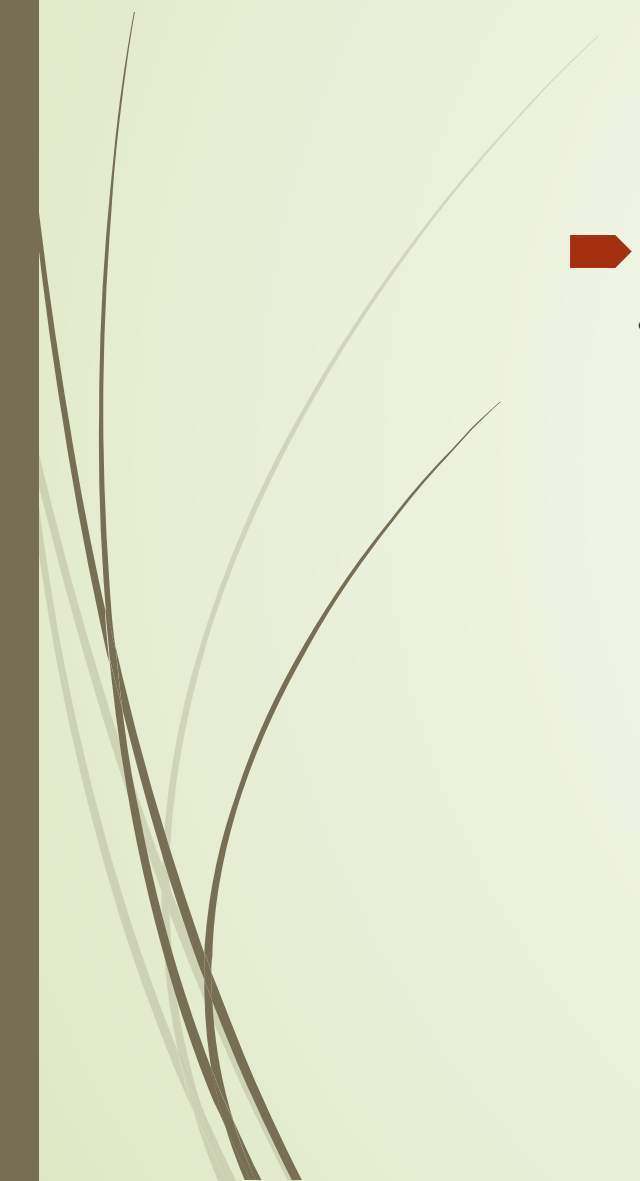


GOOD NEWS:

Even a slight  
shift in  
mindset can  
**MASSIVELY**  
alters our  
destiny



# THE ALCHEMY OF PEACE METHOD

- ▶ Grounded in understanding that change involves 3 steps:
    - ▶ Accept where we are
    - ▶ Envision where we want to end up
    - ▶ Take the steps to bridge the gap
- 

# THE AOP METHOD INSPIRED BY TWO PRICELESS GIFTS BROUGHT BY DIVINE TEACHERS



1. A NEW SET OF LENSES TO PERCEIVE AND UNDERSTAND REALITY



2. NEW HABITS BY WHICH TO LEAD OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LIVES



# THE ALCHEMY OF PEACE METHOD: A 4-STEP PROCESS



1

1. Become aware of Key Outworn and Harmful Mindsets



2

2. Identify the Dysfunctional Habits they Spawn



3

3. Mindfully Choose New Empowering Mindsets to Replace the Old



4

4. Intentionally craft New Habits to Replace Dysfunctional Ones



# THE AOP METHOD IN ACTION

Helping us to **REFRAME**

our **CONCEPTIONS OF POWER**

and

Inculcating in us a new habit of **ELECTING**

**FIT AND WORTHY LEADERS**





ACCEPTING  
OUR  
CURRENT  
REALITY

TRUST IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS  
AND LEADERS HAS  
PLUMMETED TO AN ALL-TIME  
LOW

LARGE SEGMENTS OF  
HUMANITY MAY DIE AS A  
RESULT



# THE LEADERSHIP SHIFT

INITIAL OBSERVATION:

- Even perfectly designed institutions are prone to abuse and corruption


UNLESS

- They are composed of **worthy** and **fit** members





FIRST STEP: BECOME CONSCIOUS OF  
OUR OLD CONCEPTIONS OF THE ROLE  
OF **POWER** AND **AUTHORITY**

- Dominance and control
- Ego and self-interest
- Higher status and somehow superior



# Emotional Reactions Triggered by our Old Mindsets

- We are cynical about leaders and elections
  - We are distrustful of those in positions of power and authority
  - We feel helpless to change anything
- 



STEP 2:  
Identify  
OLD HABITS  
that flow  
from  
OLD  
MINDSETS

- ▶ We are ambivalent about voting
- ▶ We set low standards
- ▶ When we do vote, we elect unfit and unworthy leaders
  - ▶ Incapable of meeting the needs of today
  - ▶ Incapable of addressing the challenges of today
  - ▶ Unwilling to be truthful and transparent about dangers and opportunities
  - ▶ Incapable of creating unity of vision and action, leaving us fractured, disunified and unable to take constructive action



## **STEP 3: ADOPT A MORE EMPOWERING CONCEPTION OF POWER AND AUTHORITY**

- Catalyst for the development of individual and collective potential
- A leader helps others to change their thoughts, beliefs, and actions for the better
- Responsibility to create unity of thought and action
- Responsibility to encourage, guide, empower, and enable
- Duty and Privilege of serving
- Leaders merely fulfill a function rather than seeking status
- Taking the long view and being proactive
- Ability to take people where they don't want to go



# Adopt a New Definition of Leadership

- “To lead others is to help them change their
  - Thoughts,
  - Beliefs, and
  - Actions
  - For the better”

➤ — Jim Rohn




## STEP 4: FIRST HABIT THAT IS BOUND TO FLOW FROM OUR NEW MINDSET

- Demanding that Our Leaders Possess Certain **Qualities of Character**



# ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF CHARACTER

- HONESTY
  - FREEDOM FROM PREJUDICE
  - COURAGE
  - FREEDOM FROM CORRUPTION
  - BASIC COMPETENCE
  - WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN IN SPIRIT OF HUMILITY
  - WISDOM AND JUSTICE
  - COMPASSION AND EMPATHY
  - SEEKING MEANS THAT ARE AS WORTHY AS THE ENDS
  - SEEKING BROADEST DIVERSITY OF INPUT POSSIBLE
  - EVINCING AN ATTITUDE OF TRANSPARENCY
- 



# CAUTION: DON'T PUT CART BEFORE THE HORSE

- Character and skills first, policies second
- Allow leaders to be agile and adapt to new realities
- Example of Abe Lincoln: “I never had a policy; I have just tried to do my very best each and every day”
- What is likely to throw a government off course: “events, dear boy, events” – Harold McMillan



# SECOND HABIT: EXAMINING THE MOTIVATION of PROSPECTIVE LEADERS


- ▶ Are they motivated by money, status, influence, and power;

OR

- ▶ By a desire to work for the collective interest of nations and the world

AND

- ▶ By a deep recognition and acceptance that humanity is a single organism?



SIMPLE TECHNIQUE FOR  
DETERMINING THAT THE TWO  
CRITERIA ARE MET

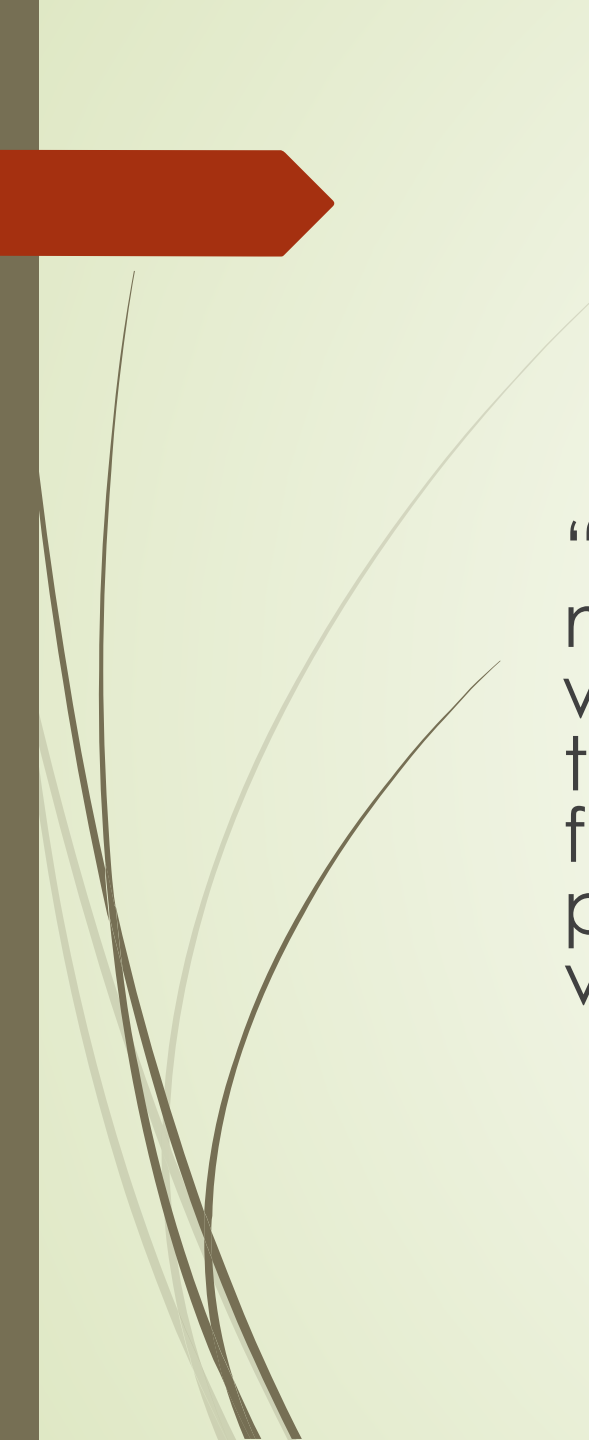
Examining a Prospective  
Leader's Record of Service



BUT WAIT... THERE'S ALSO AN  
**ESSENTIAL SKILL** WE NEED TO HONE:

➤ **THE INDEPENDENT AND UNBIASED  
INVESTIGATION OF TRUTH**

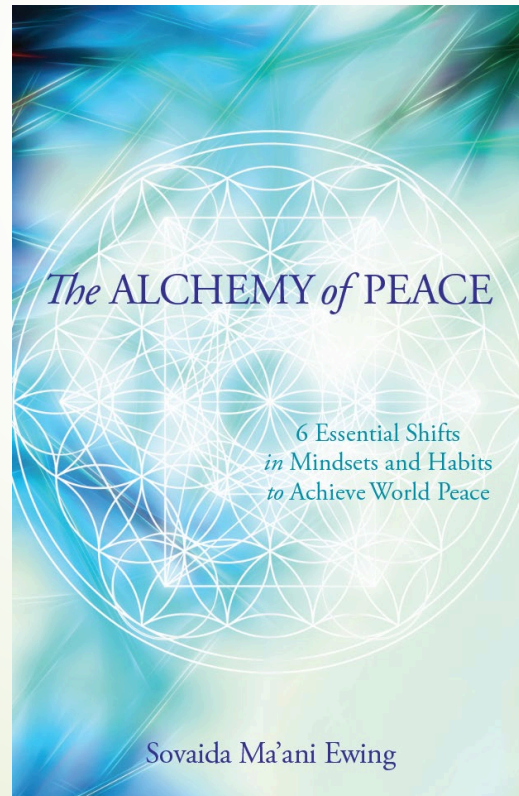
➤ Learn to “see with thine eyes and not through the eyes of others and know of thine own knowledge and not through the knowledge of thy neighbor”. This is the essence of justice.



“I wish this blessing to appear and become manifest...that they [the believers] may make the world a new world...; old ideas depart and new thoughts come ...ancient politics whose foundation is war be discarded and modern politics founded on peace raise the standard of victory...”

— Abdu’l-Baha

**"THE ALCHEMY OF PEACE"** is available worldwide at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in both digital and paperback versions and also at [bahaibookstore.com](https://www.bahaibookstore.com)





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➤ WHEN: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month  
at 4 pm ET

➤ WHERE:

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➤ On the CPGG YouTube Channel which you can reach by going to [www.cpgg.org](http://www.cpgg.org) and scrolling to the bottom of the page.